IN THE CLAIMS

To obviate formality-based objections under 35 U.S.C. §112(2), please amend claims 1 and 8 as shown below:

1.   (Amended) A service-provision-system-for-use-with-a-communications network to provide a plurality of services to a network user, wherein data relevant to the plurality of services can be made available to the user, and the user can select one or more services to be provided, said system including:

control means comprising a plurality of object-oriented software agents, individual agents of said plurality comprising data [in respect of respective entities] relevant to service provision via [by means of] the network, and [said system further comprising]

updating means for updating data held by at least some of said software agents,

the control means [controlling] maintaining and communicating the data made available to the user and responsive to selection of a service by the user to trigger a process for providing the selected service to the user.

8.   (Twice Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein:

a plurality of said individual agents are each allocated a facility for offering a common service,

each of [these] said plurality of individual agents holding real-time data in respect of its allocated facility's capacity to offer the service, and

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the system selects one of the allocated facilities on which to base notification to the user

of current conditions under which a service might be provided.

Please add new claims:

--10. A service-provision system for use with a communications network including a

mobile communications sub-network to provide a plurality of services to a network user having

access to the mobile sub-network, wherein data relevant to the plurality of services can be made

available to the user, and the user can select one or more services to be provided, said system

comprising:

object-oriented control means including a plurality of object-oriented software agents

inter-communicating with one another via commonly formatted messages, individual agents of

said plurality including data relevant to service provision via the network, and

updating means for updating data held by at least some of said software agents,

the control means controlling the data made available to the user and responsive to

selection of a service by the user to trigger a process for providing the selected service to the user

via the mobile sub-network.

11. A system as in claim 1 wherein:

the control means is responsive to transfer of the user between cells of the mobile

network, said cells having different resources to offer in respect of services to the user, to update

data made available to the user which is affected by said transfer.

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12. A system as in claim 11 wherein:

at least one of the services potentially available to the user is affected by bandwidth availability in the cell in which the user has access to the mobile network, and

the control means may update the data available to the user in terms of either availability of such service or the price at which it would be available.

13. A system as in claim 11 wherein:

at least one of the services potentially available to the user involves the downloading of data to the user, which downloading is affected by bandwidth availability in cells of the mobile network,

said system further comprising means to store data requested by the user as a consequence of selecting a service,

the control means controlling downloading of said data to the user such that it is stored at times that bandwidth is not available for said downloading, and downloaded subsequently when bandwidth becomes available.

14. A system as in claim 13 wherein:

the control means includes means for tracking the location of the user with respect to the mobile network for the purpose of downloading the data to the user by means of appropriate routing through the communications network or networks.

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15.   A system as in claim 10 wherein:

data relevant to the plurality of services includes real-time pricing data such that the user

can take the real-time pricing data into account prior to selecting a service.

16.   A system as in claim 10 wherein:

a plurality of said individual agents are each allocated a facility for offering a common

service,

each of said plurality of individual agents holding real-time data in respect of its allocated

facility's capacity to offer the service, and

the system selects one of the allocated facilities on which to base notification to the user

of current conditions under which a service might be provided.

17.   A system as in claim 10 wherein:

at least one of said agents comprises means for storing an updatable business strategy,

and

the system accesses said business strategy prior to making cost-related service data

available to a user, such that said business strategy can be applied to said cost-related service data

to modify the data appropriately.

18.   A method of service provision for use with a communications network including a mobile communications sub-network to provide a plurality of services to a network user having access to the mobile sub-network, wherein data relevant to the plurality of services can be made available to the user, and the user can select one or more services to be provided, said method comprising:

using a plurality of object-oriented software agents inter-communicating with one another via commonly formatted messages to maintain data relevant to service provision via the network,

updating data held by at least some of said software agents via said commonly formatted messages, and

controlling the data made available to the user and responsive to selection of a service by the user to trigger a process for providing the selected service to the user via the mobile sub-network.

19.   A method as in claim 18 wherein:

the transfer of the user between cells of the mobile network having different resources to offer in respect of services to the user causes update data to be made available to the user which is affected by said transfer.

20.   A method as in claim 19 wherein at least one of the services potentially available to the user is affected by bandwidth availability in the cell in which the user has access to the mobile network, and wherein:

the data available to the user is updated in terms of either availability of such service or

the price at which it would be available.

21.   A method as in claim 19 wherein at least one of the services potentially available

to the user involves the downloading of data to the user, which downloading is affected by

bandwidth availability in cells of the mobile network,

said method further comprising:

storing data requested by the user as a consequence of selecting a service, and

controlling downloading of said data to the user such that it is stored at times that

bandwidth is not available for said downloading, and downloaded subsequently when bandwidth

becomes available.

22.   A method as in claim 21 further comprising:

tracking the location of the user with respect to the mobile network for the purpose of

downloading the data to the user by means of appropriate routing through the communications

network.

23.   A method as in claim 18 wherein:

data relevant to the plurality of services includes real-time pricing data such that the user

can take the real-time pricing data into account prior to selecting a service.

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24.   A method as in claim 18 wherein:

a plurality of said individual agents are each allocated a facility for offering a common service,

each of said plurality of individual agents holding real-time data in respect of its allocated facility's capacity to offer the service, and

the system selects one of the allocated facilities on which to base notification to the user of current conditions under which a service might be provided.

25.   A method as in claim 18 wherein:

at least one of said agents stores an updatable business strategy, and

the system accesses said business strategy prior to making cost-related service data available to a user, such that said business strategy can be applied to said cost-related service data to modify the data appropriately.--

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